

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. At present EMU trains are running on Delhi/New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Aligarh, Delhi/New Delhi/Nizamuddin-Faridabad-Palwal-Mathura sections and MEMU services on Delhi/New Delhi-Panipat-Ambala section.

(e) and (f) Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections are not electrified and therefore running of EMU trains on these sections is operationally not feasible at present. However, adequate number of conventional passenger services (including push pull services on Delhi-Rohtak-Jind section) are catering to the requirement of the passengers on these sections.

Railway Travel Agencies in the Country

890. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway travel agencies functioning in the country at present, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of travel agencies which were given contract in Bhubaneswar alongwith the time by which it came into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of Rail Travellers' Service Agents functioning on various zonal railways are as under :

Central Railway	:	42
Eastern Railway	:	20
Northern Railway	:	193
North-Eastern Railway	:	7
North East Frontier Railway	:	2
Southern Railway	:	104
South Central Railway	:	21
South Eastern Railway	:	21
Western Railway	:	45

(b) No Rail Travellers' Service Agent is functioning at Bhubaneshwar.

[Translation]

Extension of Telephone Exchanges/Services

891. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special scheme has been prepared by the Government for the extension of telephone exchanges and telephone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up extension work during 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) There is no special scheme for extension of Telephone exchanges services. However, annual Plans are prepared each year for extension of Telephone exchanges/services covering creation/expansion of New Telephone exchanges, introduction of S.T.D. route and Integrated Services Digital Network services.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir.

Details for extension work for 1997-1998 are not yet finalised.

[English]

Licences/Permits to Myanmar Displaced Indian Repatriates

892. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of provisions for priority in matter of Licences Permits to Myanmar displaced Indian Repatriates on humanitarian basis;

(b) if so, whether any Burma displaced Indians have applied for Licences/Permits for telephone booths/book stalls etc. at New Delhi/Delhi Railway Stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Instructions were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the State Governments in 1965 that apart from the grant of business loans to repatriates from Burma, priority may also be given to them in the matter of grant of licences, permits, etc. where these are required for any occupation or trade. These instructions are still in operation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Travel Circuit in Kerala

893. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Union Government for the approval of a travel circuit covering Malabar region of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon alongwith the financial assistance provided or proposed to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes Sir.